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Petronius, Poetry, and Rape: *Satyrica* 126.18

1. Petronius, *Satyrica* 126.18

<p>Quid factum est, quod tu proiectis, Iuppiter, armis inter caelicolas fabula muta iaces? Nunc erat a torva submittere cornua fronte, nunc pluma canos dissimulare tuos. Haec vera est Danae: tempta modo tangere corpus, iam tua flammifero membra calore fluent.</p>	<p>What has happened? Why do you, Jupiter, with arms tossed aside lie a mute myth among the gods? Now it was fitting to sprout horns from your fierce forehead, now to disguise your white hair with plumage. This is the true Danae: try only to touch her body, and now your limbs melt from the flame-bearing heat.</p>
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2. Petronius, *Satyrica* 131.8

<p>Mobilis aestivas platanus diffuderat umbras et bacis redimita Daphne tremulaeque cupressus et circum tonsae trepidanti vertice pinus. Has inter ludebat aquis errantibus amnis spumeus et querulo vexabat rore lapillos. Dignus amore locus: testis silvester aedon atque urbana Procne, quae circum gramina fusae et molles violas cantu sua rura colebant.</p>	<p>The pliant plane had spread shade for summertime as had Daphne, crowned with berries, and the tremulous cypresses and the pines trimmed round with shaking top. Among these a stream was playing with wandering waters and its foam was agitating pebbles with a murmuring trickle. A place suitable for love: a sylvan nightingale and Procne, a city swallow, are witnesses, who scattered over the turf and soft violets were watching over their rural haunts with song.</p>
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3. Petronius, *Satyrica* 137.9

<p>Quisquis habet nummos, secura navigat aura fortunamque suo temperat arbitrio. Uxorem ducat Danaen ipsumque licebit Acrisium iubeat credere quod Danaen. Carmina componat, declamet, concrepet omnes et peragat causas sitque Catone prior. Iurisconsultus ‘parret, non parret’ habeto atque esto quicquid Servius et Labeo. Multa loquor; quod vis, nummis praesentibus opta: eveniet. Clausum possidet arca Iovem.</p>	<p>Whoever has money sails with a safe breeze and directs his fortune according to his own judgment. He may marry Danae and persuade Acrisius himself to believe what he persuaded Danae to believe. Let him compose poems, declaim, rattle everyone, win lawsuits and be more superior than Cato. A lawyer, he shall have “it is proven, it is not proven” and be all that Servius and Labeo were. But I am babbling: with money at hand wish for what you want and it will come. The money chest holds Jove confined.</p>
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4. Ovid, *Amores* 3.8.29-34

<p>Iuppiter, admonitus nihil esse potentius auro,  corruptae pretium virginis ipse fuit.  Dum merces aberat, durus pater, ipsa severa,  aerati postes, ferrea turris erat;  sed postquam sapiens in munere venit adulter,  praebuit ipsa sinus et dare iussa dedit.</p>	<p>Jupiter, reminded that nothing is more potent than gold,  turned himself into money to compromise a virgin.  While compensation was lacking, the father was harsh, she severe,  the doors were bronze, the tower iron.  But after the adulterer wisely came as a bribe,  she offered embraces and asked to put out, she did.</p>
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